

to the overseers of the poor, most of whom were eligible for boarding in families." Page 89.

(3) "Were small towns forbidden by law to make their almshouses receptacles for the insane, the number of those boarded out would be largely increased." Page 89.

All this points to the necessity of fresh legislation.

(1) All the insane poor, *however provided for*, should be as much under the care of the State as those of them who are in asylums.

(2) No almshouse should be allowed to receive insane inmates which is not licensed to do so by some State authority—the licence being granted on well-considered conditions.

ASYLUM NEWS.

Derbyshire.—The Committee asked for power to extend the present county asylum at Mickleover so as to provide for 750 patients, as against 600 at present. This would involve an outlay of £21,000. During the discussion several speakers suggested the desirability of erecting a new asylum in the northern part of the county, which was very favourably regarded by those present.

Lancashire.—At the annual meeting of the Lancashire Asylums Board the Chairman moved the adoption of the Report of the Committee of Winwick Asylum, which stated that the tender of Messrs. Robert Neill and Sons for the erection of the new asylum for Winwick for the sum of £253,000 had been approved. The patients' blocks will be completed in about two and a half years, and the whole building in three and a half years. The report was confirmed.

The Clerk read the following resolution from the Preston guardians:—"That the asylum authorities be asked to put pressure upon all unions to make room for chronic harmless cases." Sir J. T. Hibbert said that if chronic harmless cases were put into the workhouses the guardians would not receive the 4s. grant for their maintenance. The County Councils Association were about to promote a Bill in Parliament to enable the union authorities to receive the grant for chronic harmless cases that were kept in the workhouses, just as they did for pauper lunatics in asylums. (Hear, hear.) Alderman Hulton said he had heard the statement of Sir John Hibbert with great pleasure. He hoped it would be a condition that only those patients who had been subject to probationary treatment in the asylum would be allowed to remain in workhouses. Sir John Hibbert said that would be so.

Mr. S. S. Brown (Pemberton) moved—"That this Board doth hereby undertake to remove the temporary buildings, to be erected in connection with the annexe at Rainhill Asylum, on the completion of the new asylum at Winwick, unless the sanction of the Secretary of State to their being used after the completion of such asylum be obtained." The resolution was passed. Mr. Brown also moved, "That a sum not exceeding £10,500 be granted out of the Asylums Fund for the erection of the temporary buildings at Rainhill." The motion having been seconded, Mr. Hoyle said he was very glad to hear that additional accommodation was to be provided. They were receiving censure from all parts. Only the other day the Coroner of Liverpool made some very strong remarks on the matter. Alderman Hulton said it seemed a great waste of money to spend £10,500 in buildings that would have to be done away with. Mr. Turner said they might be able to use them as permanent buildings, subject to obtaining the approval of the Secretary of State. Mr. Kenyon said he hoped they would not have to be swept away. They would need them and the new asylum as well. The resolution was adopted.

West Riding.—In order to meet the need created by an increase of insanity in the West Riding of late years, the Asylums Committee of the County Council are making preparations for the erection of an additional asylum capable of accommodating about 2000 patients. It was shown that whereas in 1887 there were

only 2951 patients in the two asylums then open for the receipt of patients (Wakefield and Wadsley), in 1896, ten years later, the three asylums at Wakefield, Wadsley, and Menston contained no fewer than 4152 insane persons. These figures are exclusive of out-county and private patients. Then, in addition, there were 1060 lunatics in the workhouses of the Riding in 1887, and 928 in 1896. To put it in another way, the returns for 1887 showed an increase of 105 in the asylums as compared with the previous year, whereas in 1896 an increase of 226 was recorded. If sixteen additional patients in the workhouses be included in the latter figure, the gross increase for 1896 will be seen to have been 242. The average of increases for the past ten years does not, it is true, give quite so startling a result, but an aggregate annual increase in asylums of 130 is calculated, nevertheless, to afford food for serious reflection. In the same report the Committee estimated that at the end of last year the total available accommodation at their three asylums (after deducting out-county patients) was as follows:—Wakefield, 18; Wadsley, 21; Menston, 191: total, 230. The hospital for acute cases now in course of erection at Wakefield would, it was stated, afford provision for 200 more, whilst by the removal of 147 persons to the proposed new private asylum room would be made for a further 100. At the most liberal computation, however, there could only be said to be places for 530 new patients in the asylums at the end of last year, and at the present rapid rate of increase all three institutions may be expected to be crowded within the next three or four years.

The scheme for the erection of the asylum for private patients is now under the consideration of the county council. It is intended to build it at Scalebor Park in the Wharfe valley, for the accommodation of about 170 persons. Besides the main building, separate villas, containing about twenty patients each, will be eventually added, so that the total number of beds will amount to 350. It is to be hoped that the rate of award will be kept within moderate limits, so that the poorer class will not be rejected from a hospital built at the expense of the ratepayers.

Radnor.—At the quarterly meeting of the Radnorshire County Council held on January 24th, the Visiting Committee of the Radnor and Brecon Joint Counties Asylum reported that the plans of the new asylum would be ready by September, when building would be commenced. The committee suggested that they should be authorised to continue the boarding-out arrangement at Abergavenny pending the erection of the new asylum. The report was adopted. £120,000 will be required for the new asylum.

Somerset.—At the meeting of the Somerset County Council held last week it was reported that £154,000 had been spent on the Cotford Asylum up to the present, and it was estimated that the total cost would be about £170,000. The number of patients at Wells Asylum was stated to be 293 males and 505 females; total, 798. Cotford Asylum has 188 males and 122 females; total, 310.

Warwick.—An epidemic has recently occurred at the Warwick Asylum which has taxed the resources of the institution to the utmost, and caused a great deal of local excitement, no doubt largely due to the fact that the disease was described as due to ptomaine poisoning. One attendant died. The coroner held an inquest, and sent the abdominal viscera to Dr. Stephenson for analysis, the inquiry being adjourned for four weeks. At the adjourned inquiry Dr. Stephenson appeared, and stated that he had examined all the viscera, but found no trace of poison whatever. Out of 29 ounces of matter he extracted $\frac{1}{4}$ part of a grain of basic material; with this he injected a mouse, but failed to cause the little animal any inconvenience. The jury thereupon brought in a verdict of death from natural causes.

I described the outbreak as one of an influenzal type, with marked abdominal symptoms. It was highly infectious, and spread with alarming rapidity. Between the 13th and 21st January there were fourteen cases; from the 22nd to the 27th inclusive 120; and between January 27th and February 12th forty. In addition

to this number my colleagues attended upwards of thirty cases occurring among the families of artisans living outside the asylum.

Fifty-seven attendants, thirty-eight artisans, and nearly one hundred of the patients were under treatment. I had a slight attack myself, both assistant medical officers, engineer, storekeeper, housekeeper, farm bailiff, and head laundress being also sufferers to a greater or less degree. I called in extra medical assistance and engaged four trained nurses, who looked after a large number of cases in the infectious hospital.

The disease was generally very sudden in its onset, sometimes being preceded by rigors. The most prominent symptoms were vomiting, diarrhoea, pains in back and limbs, high temperature, reaching 103° and 104° in a few hours, a crisis often accompanied by profuse perspiration; while among other symptoms may be noted coryza, pains at the back of the eyeballs, headache, sleeplessness, slight delirium, and transitory hallucinations. The vomited matter generally contained bile, and a marked icteric tinge was often present. A slight desquamation was noticed in many cases where the temperature was high. The average duration of fever was about seven days, the patients being very prostrate and weak, and in some convalescence was very protracted, pains in the limbs, general weakness, and tendency to neuralgia retarding recovery. In some cases diarrhoea was entirely absent, the disease being of the ordinary type. [*Communicated by Dr. Miller.*]

RESIGNATIONS.

We regret to notice that, on account of ill-health, Dr. Greene has resigned his position as Medical Superintendent of the Berry Wood Asylum, Northampton; but it is some consolation to know that his services have been highly appreciated by the Committee, and that they have set forth the facts and their conclusions in a succinct and well-reasoned document.

The Committee states that "Dr. Greene was appointed in 1878 to the office which he has since held with such distinction to himself and advantage to the county of Northampton. At that time the total number of patients in the asylum was 523, and the cost of maintenance per head per week was 10s. 6d. Since his appointment there has been an increase in the number of patients to 900. In addition to this it must be borne in mind that by gradually decreasing stages the cost of maintenance of patients per head per week has been materially reduced from the above-mentioned sum of 10s. 6d. to the sum at which it now stands of 7s. 6d. Taking the present number of patients as a fair average, this is equal to an annual saving of £5460. The Committee have thus been enabled by the excellence of the management to return to the county a sum of money in aid of the rates, which at the close of 1896 (and which has since been added to) amounted to no less a sum than £9803, while at the same time the Committee had in hand a balance at the bank to the credit of the Building and Repairs Fund Account of £4741 10s. 4d. There can be no question that the Committee have mainly to thank Dr. Greene for the administration which has led to such a conspicuous financial success. The above *résumé* of the results of Dr. Greene's service cannot be concluded without reference to another matter. For nearly twenty years, although many additions to the asylum and asylum buildings have been made, and notably a Fever and Infectious Diseases Hospital, a children's block (costing about £3500) and about fifteen residences for the staff have been built, and also a well (costing about £3000) has been provided, and sundry purchases of land have been made, without the county being called upon to pay any sum towards the same; moreover not one penny has ever been expended by the Committee on architect's fees, Dr. Greene having prepared the designs and superintended the buildings entirely by himself. He has also so managed that no demand has ever been made upon the county rate for maintenance and repairs. Dr. Greene has now, on account of ill-health, tendered his resignation to the